

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1-18 cancelled

19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) The fiber swab of ~~claim 19~~claim 49, wherein the fiber material comprises polyester (PES) or viscose fibers.

21. (currently amended) The fiber swab of ~~claim 19~~claim 49, wherein a portion of micro staple fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 3 to 50 weight %.

22. (currently amended) The fiber swab of ~~claim 21~~claim 49, wherein a portion of micro staple fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 5 to 30 weight %.

23. (previously presented) The fiber swab of claim 22, wherein a portion of micro staple fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 5 to 20 weight %.

24. (currently amended) The fiber swab of ~~claim 19~~claim 49, wherein said fiber material additionally comprises up to 97 weight % of cotton fibers.

25. (previously presented) The fiber swab of claim 24, wherein said fiber material additionally comprises up to 60 to 97 weight % of cotton fibers.

26. (previously presented) The fiber swab of claim 25, wherein said fiber material additionally comprises up to 70 to 95 weight % of cotton fibers.
27. (previously presented) The fiber swab of claim 24, wherein said cotton fibers are cotton nails.
28. (cancelled)
29. (currently amended) The fiber swab of ~~claim 28~~claim 49, wherein a portion of said thermally meltble binding fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 5 to 20 weight %.
30. (previously presented) The fiber swab of claim 29, wherein a portion of said thermally meltble binding fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 5 to 15 weight %.
31. (cancelled)
32. (currently amended) The fiber swab of ~~claim 31~~claim 49, wherein said multi-component fibers have a fiber thickness of 1.3 to 10 dtex.
33. (previously presented) The fiber swab of claim 32, wherein said multi-component fibers have a fiber thickness of 1.3 to 3 dtex.
34. (currently amended) The fiber swab of ~~claim 31~~claim 49, wherein said multi-component fibers have a fiber length of 3 to 60 mm.
35. (currently amended) The fiber swab of ~~claim 28~~claim 49, wherein said binding fibers are copolyester (CO-PES) / polyester (PES) bi-component fibers.

36. (cancelled)
37. (currently amended) The fiber swab of ~~claim 19~~claim 49, wherein a removal resistance of said fiber material from said end of said stick is larger than 30N.
38. (previously presented) The fiber swab of claim 37, wherein a removal resistance of said fiber material from said end of said stick is larger than 40N.
39. (cancelled)
40. (currently amended) The fiber swab of ~~claim 39~~claim 50, wherein a sinking duration of said fiber material in an aqueous solution is at least 3.4 seconds.
41. (previously presented) The fiber swab of claim 40, wherein a sinking duration of said fiber material in an aqueous solution is at least 4 seconds.
42. (previously presented) The fiber swab of claim 40, wherein a sinking duration of said fiber material in an aqueous solution is at least 4.5 seconds.
43. (cancelled)
44. (currently amended) The fiber swab of ~~claim 43~~claim 51, wherein a water retaining capacity of said fiber material is at least 23 g/g (g liquid per g fiber material).

45. (currently amended) The fiber swab of ~~claim 19~~claim 49, wherein said fiber material contains a softener.
46. (currently amended) The fiber swab of ~~claim 19~~claim 49, wherein said fiber material forming said fiber head is produced from a fiber fleece or a fiber fleece strip having a specific weight of 0.5 to 8 g/m.
47. (currently amended) The fiber swab of ~~claim 46~~claim 49, wherein said fiber material forming said fiber head is produced from a fiber fleece or a fiber fleece strip having a specific weight of 1 to 2 g/m.
48. (previously presented) The fiber swab of claim 46, wherein said fiber fleece or the fiber fleece strip is a card fleece which is oriented in a machine direction.
49. (new) A fiber swab for cosmetic or medical purposes or for body care, the swab comprising:
 - a stick; and
 - a fiber material forming a fiber head at at least one end of the stick, the fiber material comprising micro staple fibers of at least 7mm in length, wherein said fiber material comprises thermally meltable binding fibers, said thermally meltable binding fibers being multi-component fibers or bi-component fibers, wherein a melting point of said thermally meltable binding fibers or of a low melting component of said multi-component fibers is lower than a melting point of said micro staple fibers.
50. (new) A fiber swab for cosmetic or medical purposes or for body care, the swab comprising:

a stick; and
a fiber material forming a fiber head at at least one end of the stick, the fiber material comprising micro staple fibers of at least 7mm in length, wherein a sinking duration of said fiber material in an aqueous solution is at least 3 seconds.

51. (new) A fiber swab for cosmetic or medical purposes or for body care, the swab comprising:

a stick; and
a fiber material forming a fiber head at at least one end of the stick, the fiber material comprising micro staple fibers of at least 7mm in length, wherein a water retaining capacity of said fiber material is at least 21 g/g (g liquid per g fiber material).